DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e),

was filed in this application after allowance or after an Office action under *Ex Parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74,

453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935). Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37

CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, prosecution in this application

has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/31/2008 has been

entered.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 1/31/2008 is in compliance with the provisions of

37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement has been considered by the examiner.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

      Applicant's amendments and arguments filed 11/14/2007, see pages 11-17, have overcome the

objections to the specification and the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101 and 35 U.S.C. §112, second

paragraph. All outstanding objections/rejections have been withdrawn.

      Claims 53-54, 56-59, 65, and 71 are considered allowable since when reading the claims in light

of the specification, as per MPEP §2111.01 none of the references of record alone or in combination

disclose or suggest the combination of limitations specified in the independent claims including wherein

"the semantic vector for the query or each for the data sets is constructed by" the <u>combination of all of the</u>

<u>recited steps</u>, including "for each data point, identifying a relationship between each data point and

multiple predetermined categories corresponding to dimensions in the semantic space" (supported at

e.g., page 4 line 14 – page 5 line 2 and page 17 line 17 – page 18 line 2), "constructing a semantic vector

representing each data point, wherein each semantic vector has dimensions equal to the number of

multiple predetermined categories and represents the significance of its corresponding data point with

respect to each the multiple predetermined categories" (supported at e.g., page 4 line 14 – page 5 line 21

and page 16 line 5 – page 18 line 2) and "wherein the significance of each data point is determined by calculating a probability distribution of each data point occurring in each predetermined category and a probability distribution of the data point's occurrence across all predetermined categories" (supported at e.g., page 16 line 11 – page 17 line 16), as specified in independent claims 53, 57, 65, and 71.

      The Examiner was persuaded by the arguments filed.

      Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Correspondence Information

      Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BENJAMIN BUSS whose telephone number is (571)272-5831. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9AM-5PM.

      If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Vincent can be reached on 571-272-3080. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

      Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Benjamin Buss
Examiner
Art Unit 2129

/BB/

/David R Vincent/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2129